

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12706 291450Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ARA-10 /077 W
-----003660 291953Z /70

R 291350Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7833
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12706

FROM DCM MATTHEWS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, CF
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CONGOLESE MEDIATION OF ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA DISPUTE

REF: CAIRO 10521 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. SINCE AMBASSADOR IS IN ALEXANDRIA, DCM RECEIVED VISIT
JULY 29 BY CONGOLESE AMBASSADOR MOPOLO-DADET, ONCE AGAIN
BILLED AS A FAREWELL CALL (REFTEL REPORTED HIS LAST CALL
ON AMBASSADOR TO SAY GOOD-BYE). MOPOLO-DADET, WHO HAS
ESTABLISHED AMICABLE RELATIONS ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE WITH
AMBASSADOR EILTS, HAD ASKED BY PHONE FOR APPOINTMENT
WITH LATTER TO DISCUSS TWO IMPORTANT MATTERS.

2. FIRST MATTER WAS PERSONAL ONE, WHICH AMOUNTED TO
BALD REQUEST THAT EMBASSY OR DCM PERSONALLY GUARANTEE
BANK LOAN TO CONGOLESE AMBASSADOR IN AMOUNT OF \$125,000
TO COVER SOME LAST-MINUTE EXPENSES THAT HAD COME UP IN COURSE
OF HIS MOVE BACK TO BRAZZAVILLE TO TAKE UP POST OF
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR. DCM GENTLY EXPLAINED THAT NEITHER
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 12706 291450Z

HE NOR EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE SUCH GUARANTEE. MOPOLO-
DADET SIGHED AND DROPPED MATTER.

3. SECOND ITEM, OF PERHAPS GREATER INTEREST, WAS THAT
CUBAN AMBASSADOR HAD APPROACHED CONGOLESE AMBASSADOR
YESTERDAY TO PROPOSE THAT CONGO MEDIATE BETWEEN SOMALIA AND
ETHIOPIA. MOPOLO-DADET THOUGHT THERE WERE

TWO REASONS FOR THIS APPROACH, WHICH HE WAS SURE WAS ALSO BEING MADE IN BRAZZAVILLE AND WAS AT INSTANCE OF SOVIETS. FIRST, CONGO IS CHAIRMAN OF OAU COMMITTEE FOR EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REGION, TO WHICH SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA ALSO BELONG. IN SECOND PLACE ALL THREE COUNTRIES ARE "SOCIALIST" REGIMES WITH CLOSE TIES TO CUBA AND THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE END OF FIGHTING BETWEEN THEIR PROTOGES. CONGO, WHICH HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH DISPUTANTS, MIGHT THEREFORE BE ABLE TO PLAY USEFUL ROLE AS MEDIATOR. MOPOLO-DADET HAD NO EXPLANATION FOR WHY CUBA WAS MAKING APPROACH RATHER THAN SOVIETS DOING IT DIRECTLY, NOR DID HE KNOW HOW THIS SUGGESTION WOULD FIT WITH CURRENT OAO EFFORTS TO MEDIATE. HE IS REPORTING HIS CONVERSATION WITH CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO HIS GOVERNMENT, BUT COULD NOT PREDICT ITS LIKELY REACTION, SINCE THERE IS A LACK OF INTERNAL COHESION BETWEEN THE 11 POLITBURO MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY CANNOT EVALUATE SUBSTANCE OF PARA 2, BUT MOPOLO-DADET SEEMED TO THINK IT WAS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE. HE HAS VOLUNTEERED CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION ABOUT CONGOLESE AFFAIRS IN PAST, THOUGH EMBASSY HAS NO MEANS OF ASSESSING ITS VALIDITY. THOUGH IT IS CONCEIVABLE, DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE HOPED TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 12706 291450Z

RECEIVE BANK GUARANTEE IN EXCHANGE FOR INFORMATION. MOPOLO-DADET ASSERTS HE IS FINALLY GOING TO LEAVE FOR BRAZZAVILLE NEXT WEEK. UNCLEAR HOW HE HOPES TO SOLVE HIS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO12706
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770272-1268
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977076/aaaaaent.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8935d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 10521
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1868564
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE CONGOLESE MEDIATION OF ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA DISPUTE
TAGS: PINR, CF, ET, SO, (MOPOLO-DADET, CESAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8935d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009